

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05235 241124Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1944

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SAUDI DIFFICULTIES

REF SANA 1975

WE HAVE READ WITH INTEREST FONMIN AL-ASNAG'S ASSESSMENT OF RELATIONS AMONG RULING GROUP IN SAUDI ARABIA. POST CONSIDERS THAT PRESENT DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS AMONG TOP LEADERS REFLECT NORMAL SHAKE-OUT INHERENT IN THE CORPORATE LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING DEATH OF STRONG LEADER FAISAL. GIVEN THE INEVITABILITY OF FACTIONS IN A ROYAL FAMILY WHOSE MAKE MEMBERS ALONE NUMBER IN THE THOUSANDS, BASIC COHESION AMONG MEMBERS OF ROYAL COUNCIL STILL MUCH STRONGER THAN ANY DIVISIVE INFLUENCES. THE LACK OF ANY EXTRALEGAL CHANGES OR SHIFTS IN KINGDOM SINCE ITS FOUNDATION IN 1928 REFLECTS CONSENSUS AS BEING THE PREDOMINANT BULWARK OF SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY. EMBASSY CONSIDERS PRESENT JOCKEYING FOR POSITION MANNER OF ACHIEVING CONSENSUS RATHER THAN MANIFESTATION OF SERIOUS FISSIPAROUS TENDENCIES. WE WILL CONTINUE KEEP AN INTERESTED EYE ON EBB AND FLOW OF RELATIONSHIPS AND WILL REPORT ANY INDICATIONS THAT INTERNAL TENSIONS ARE REACHING A CRITICAL LEVEL.
HORAN

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